

ST. PAUL the APOSTLE CATHOLIC PARISH

511 N. Conrad Street Peotone, IL 60468-9290

CHURCH OFFICE TELEPHONE: 708 258-6917 **CHURCH OFFICE FAX:** 708 258-3061 **CHURCH OFFICE E-MAIL:** StPaulPeotone@att.net

PASTOR: Rev. Thomas Theneth, CMI

815 468-1954 / Theneth52@gmail.com

Mr. James Kelly DEACON: 815 412-0565

DEACON E-MAIL: jimk3163@sbcglobal.net **PARISH BUSINESS MANAGER:** Paula Prium

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON:

CCW PRESIDENT:

Marge Harms **GRAND KNIGHT of K of C:** Ron LeClaire **BUILDING & GROUNDS:** Steve Maltese FINANCE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON: Al Leffelman Paula Prium **WORSHIP COMMISSION:**

CHRISTIAN FORMATION / EDUCATION COMMISSION: SOCIAL SERVICES COORDINATOR: Mary Ann Battermann

MINISTERS OF CARE: Barb Egelski

DIRECTOR of RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Dcn Jim Kelly

RE OFFICE E-MAIL: StPaulRE@att.net **RE OFFICE PHONE**: 708 258-9580

FAITH FORMATION (RELIGIOUS ED) CLASSES

Grades 1 through 8: Wednesday from 6:15pm—7:30pm

Find us—

Facebook: "St. Paul the Apostle Peotone"

Website: StPaulPeotone.org

YouTube: Saint Paul the Apostle Peotone

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM: Please contact the Parish Office **RECONCILIATION:**

Thursday: 7:15pm to 7:45pm Saturday: 3pm to 3:45pm

Any time by appointment

FIRST RECONCILIATION: To be announced FIRST COMMUNION: To be announced **CONFIRMATION:** To be announced **MARRIAGE:** By appointment only

Please call at least 6 months in advance

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK: Call anytime

Please call the parish office to inform us of an illness or hospitalization of a parishioner or family member. Privacy laws prohibit hospitals from releasing information to clergy about hospitalized church members without the specific consent and request of the patient or their immediate family.

ORDINARY MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday: 4pm Sunday: 11am

Daily Mass: Tue. Wed and Fri 8:30am Communion Services: Mon and Thrs 8:30am

Holy Days of Obligation: Please see the bulletin **Eucharistic Adoration:** Thursday 6pm to 8pm

Communion Calls: If you or someone you love is ill or homebound and would like to receive Communion, please call the parish office to make arrangements for regular visits.

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 12:30pm to 5pm Regular time to make appointments, registrations, etc.

Regular bulletin deadline: Wednesday by 12pm

It's Respect Life Month!

Join Catholics nationwide in celebrating Respect Life Month. Visit respectlife.org/celebrate



The Mission Statement of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we strive to grow in relationship with Him, live the Faith, and share His Good News with others.

You Are Invited to the Jubilee Mass for "Catechists"



Bishop Hicks warmly extends his invitation to you to attend his final Jubilee Mass of the 2025 Jubilee Year! It is the "Jubilee Mass for Catechists" to be held at 2pm on Sunday, October 19 at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus, 604 N. Raynor Avenue, Joliet. This special invitation goes to all parishes and their members who have responded to the Lord's call to be a "catechist" to others, including those who serve children and

youth in parish faith formation programs, those who do so in a homeschool setting, and those who instruct individuals and families in the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA). **Because many attendees are expected, all groups or individuals who plan to come need to register by October 10** here (https://forms.office.com/r/2jeVQMTfVi). The Mass will be followed by an opportunity for fellowship and light refreshments. All who share in this special ministry are welcome!

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS:

-HM2 Chuck Claxton (Navy—29 Palms, CA) Son of Dennis & Pat Claxton

-AN Chase Clyden (Navy—Asian Seas)
Grandson of Laura (Tom) Jacques;
Great-nephew of Barbara Grantz

-SFC Nicholas Hupke (Army) Nephew of Paula (Fred) Prium

-MAJ Jori Ingersoll (Air Force—*Washington State*)

Daughter of Mary Jo (Frank) Fry, Jr.

-SSGT Nate Kijowski (Marines) Son of Debbie (John) Ziolkowski Kijowski

-PVT Jake L. O'Connor (Marines)
Grandson of Marge Brooke

-SSG Sean Rodgers (Army—Ft. Campbell, KY)
Grandson of Barbara Grantz;
Great-nephew of Laura (Tom) Jacques

-CAPT Joseph Walan (Air Force—Las Vegas, NV) Son of Mary Jo (Frank) Fry, Jr.

Please pray for their safety, spiritual and physical well being and that God will give His peace to their parents and families.



This month, parishes around the Diocese will conduct the "October count," a measure of attendance at Sunday Mass. The measure has been taken for many centuries, and in some European dioceses it is possible to measure the level of engagement in worship by the population over the course of many centuries. Long ago, it was also the custom to track "Easter duty" by a statistical report. Penitents would receive a kind of chit at confession, which they would then turn in at their parish church when they received Holy Communion during Easter time.

Long ago, of course, Communion was fairly rare in the life of a Catholic Christian, perhaps only once a year. The chits would be tallied by parish priests and reported to the chancery, which in turn would hold on to the records and include the statistics in a report to the Vatican every five years. Nowadays, the **October count** has proved especially critical in the life of our Church as bishops use the figures to measure the vitality of church life, to sketch parish boundaries, and even to decide when to close, merge, or form new parishes.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Next Sunday will collect for **World Mission Sunday**, a day when Catholics around the globe unite in prayer and generosity for the Church's missionary work. Please consider how you will participate next Sunday through your prayer and support.

Please join us today, Sunday, October 5 at 12:30pm for the **BLESSING of ANI-MALS**. Bring all your pets, great and small, for a special blessing. **All pets are welcome, but must be caged or leashed**.

Animal blessing services are a way for humans to celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (October 4), embodying his love of animals and all mankind. St. Francis is the patron saint of animals and the environment and founder of the Franciscan order.



Mass Intentions For The Week



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Sat	10/4	3:00 pm— <u>CONFESSION</u> 3:30 pm— <u>ROSARY</u> 4:00 pm— + <u>Peter Claxton</u> req by Arnie & Julie Szudarski
Sun	10/5	
		12:30 pm— ANIMAL BLESSING
Mon	10/6	8:30 am— <i>COMMUNION SERVICE</i>
Tue	10/7	8:30 am— + <i>Joseph Librera</i> req by Francesca Biondo
Wed	10/8	8:30 am— + <u>Patricia Motyka</u> req by Family
Thr	10/9	8:30 am— <u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u> 6:00 pm— <u>ADORATION</u> 7:15 pm— <u>CONFESSION</u>
Fri	10/10	8:30 am— + <i>John Pirog</i> req by Family
Sat	10/11	3:00 pm— <u>CONFESSION</u> 3:30 pm— <u>ROSARY</u> 4:00 pm— + <u>Norman J. Andrews, Sr.</u> req by St. Paul Parish and <u>People of the Parish</u>
Sun	10/12	10:30 am— ROSARY 11:00 am— +For the Eternal Salvation of Mary & Theodore Litak req by T.R. Litak

If you are attending a Mass that you requested an intention to be said for, please sign the gift bearer book in the rear of the church and let an usher know you are here if you wish to bring up the gifts.



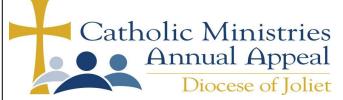
Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of

Mrs. Jean Ann Heckelsmiller, 93,

who passed away September 26,

2025. She was the mother of Karen (Ron) LeClaire. Services have been held in Iowa.

+ May she rest in peace. +



CMAA Pledge Report for St. Paul the Apostle

Monthly pledge payments for CMAA pledges should be made in the next few days. It is very important that these pledges be paid. Since we have reached our goal in paid pledges, 70% of the amount over goal will be returned to our parish for our needs. As of 9/28/25:

PARISH GOAL: \$15,600
AMOUNT PLEDGED: \$40,092
AMOUNT PAID: \$37,707
REMAINING BALANCE: \$2,385
NUMBER of DONORS: 121
2025 REBATE: \$15,475

Our next *BAPTISMAL CLASS* is scheduled for **Thursday**, **October 9 at 6pm**. Parents and godparents are required to attend a class before making arrangements for the baptism of their child. If parents and godparents have attended a baptismal class within the last 2 years, there is no need to attend again. We encourage you to attend the class during your pregnancy so there will be no delay in your child's baptism. If you plan to attend, please call



Choir begins next Saturday, October 11 @ 2:30pm and will continue every Saturday from 2:30-3:30pm.

The goal of our church choir is to enhance the church liturgy through music.

Scheduled dates for choir to sing:

- —Saturday, November 8 @ 4pm Mass
- —Saturday, December 6 @ 4pm for the Installation Mass for Fr. Thomas
- —Wednesday, Dec. 24/Thursday, Dec. 25 TBD

INTERESTED?

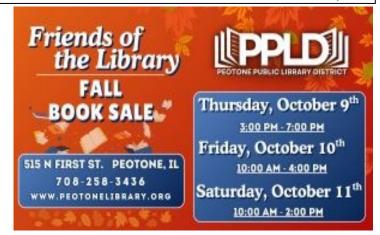
the office.

Please let Sue know by this Wednesday, October 8 if you are planning to be a part of the St. Paul the Apostle Church Choir.

Sue Williams @ 815 370-6287



Please join us this Wednesday, October 8, after 8:30am Mass, for coffee and apple kuchen.





POPE LEO XIV's INTENTIONS for OCTOBER 2025:

For Collaboration Between Different Religious Traditions

Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.



Let's MAKE Disciples for Jesus!

Download and read Bishop
Hicks' new pastoral letter,
MAKE, to discover how you
and your loved ones can live as
disciples and help make other
disciples in your community.



MAKE.diojoliet.org



A Pastoral Letter for the People of the Diocese of Joliet

¡Hagamos discípulos para Jesús!

Descargue y lea la nueva carta pastoral del Obispo Hicks, MAKE, para descubrir cómo usted y sus seres queridos pueden vivir como discípulos y ayudar a hacer otros discípulos en su comunidad.



MAKE.diojoliet.org



MAKE

A Pastoral Letter for the People

A Pastoral Letter for the Peo of the **Diocese of Joliet**



Bishop Hicks' Column October 2025



MAKE

When I arrived as your bishop five years ago, I laid out a vision of catechesis, evangelization, and faith into action, emphasizing that a thriving Church is one where we truly know, love, and serve God. The big question remains: how do we actually do that? How do we move from just having a vision to putting it into real practice?

This is why I wrote the pastoral letter MAKE! and launched it just this month. It builds on Bishop Conlon's 2018 pastoral letter GO!, which draws on the Great Commission in Matthew's Gospel (Matthew 28): "Go and make disciples." MAKE! vulnerably reflects my heart. I love Jesus, and I want you to love Him too. It expresses my desire to give everyone a practical, loving roadmap to becoming disciples and making disciples, with a hands-on guide for passing our faith from one generation to the next.

Right before publishing it, I have to admit that I was filled with some self-doubt. I wondered, "There are so many other issues I could be writing about: the Eucharist, Pro-Life concerns, Vocations, Care of Creation, Immigration, Violence, and more. Is making disciples really the best topic?"

The Holy Spirit answered that question for me last month during a meeting at the headquarters of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in Washington, D.C. Our committee was presented with the results of a large national survey of thousands of priests across the country. One question asked, "Out of all the issues in the world, which one most needs to be addressed by our Church?" The number one response from priests nationwide was clear: passing the faith on to the next generation.

The statistician went on to explain that this does not mean priests consider the other issues unimportant. Rather, they recognize that if we do not have people in the pews, if this generation and the next are not alive in their faith and participating in the life of the Church, then all of those other issues will

eventually lose their voice in the Church. We first need to form disciples who are rooted in Christ, so that they in turn can carry the mission forward and address these other urgent concerns with faith and courage.

This is why MAKE! is so important. It is not just another document, and it is certainly not meant to sit on a shelf and collect dust. It is a living invitation to every Catholic in our diocese to move from simply managing decline to boldly embracing mission. We all want to belong to a Church that is alive, thriving, and centered on the salvation of souls. That future depends on how seriously we take this call to be made into disciples so that we can go out and make disciples.

The letter offers a clear path: conversion, confession, communion, commission, all held together by prayer. These are not abstract concepts but real, concrete steps that anyone can begin today. I both invite and urge you to read the letter. And then read it again. Pray over it, discuss it with your family, your friends, or a group in your parish. Choose one small action and begin.

If each of us takes this seriously, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Diocese of Joliet can become a Church on fire with love for Jesus. Boldly, I want our diocese to be the most evangelizing diocese in the country, not out of competition, but because I love Jesus, and I want you to love Him and be saved through Him too. This is our time, and this is our mission. Let us first be disciples, men and women of all ages who know, love, and serve Jesus, so that together we can go out with joy and courage to MAKE disciples, starting now.

To learn more about my pastoral letter and how to make disciples for Jesus, visit make.diojoliet.org.



Columna del Obispo Hicks Octubre 2025



HACER

Cuando llegué como su obispo hace cinco años, presenté una visión de catequesis, evangelización y fe en acción, enfatizando que una Iglesia próspera es aquella en la que verdaderamente conocemos, amamos y servimos a Dios. La gran pregunta sigue siendo: ¿cómo lo hacemos realmente? ¿Cómo pasamos de tener una visión a ponerla en práctica?

Es por eso que escribí la carta pastoral HACER! y la lancé este mes. Se basa en la carta pastoral del obispo Conlon de 2018 GO!, que se basa en la Gran Comisión del Evangelio de Mateo (Mateo 28): "Id y haced discípulos." ¡HACER! refleja mi corazón de manera vulnerable. Amo a Jesús, y quiero que tú también lo ames. Expresa mi deseo de darles a todos una ruta práctica y amorosa para convertirse en discípulos y hacer discípulos, con una guía práctica para transmitir nuestra fe de una generación a la siguiente.

Justo antes de publicarlo, tengo que admitir que estaba lleno de algunas dudas. Me pregunté: "Hay tantos otros temas sobre los que podría estar escribiendo: la Eucaristía, las preocupaciones Pro-Vida, las Vocaciones, el Cuidado de la Creación, la Inmigración, la Violencia y más. ¿Hacer discípulos será realmente el mejor tema?"

El Espíritu Santo me respondió esa pregunta el mes pasado durante una reunión en la sede de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos (USCCB) en Washington, D.C. A nuestro comité se le presentaron los resultados de una gran encuesta nacional de miles de sacerdotes en todo el país. Una pregunta era: "De todos los problemas del mundo, ¿cuál es el que más necesita ser dirigido por nuestra Iglesia?" La respuesta número uno de los sacerdotes de todo el país fue clara: transmitir la fe a la próxima generación.

El estadístico continuó explicando que esto no significa que los sacerdotes consideren que los otros temas no son importantes. Más bien, reconocen qué si no tenemos personas en las bancas, si esta generación y la siguiente no están vivas en su fe y no participan en la vida de la Iglesia, entonces todos esos otros temas eventualmente perderán su voz en la Iglesia. Primero necesitamos formar discípulos que estén arraigados en Cristo, para que ellos a su vez puedan llevar adelante la misión y abordar estas otras preocupaciones urgentes con fe y valentía.

Es por eso que HACER! es muy importante. No es un documento más, y ciertamente no está destinado a sentarse en un estante y acumular polvo. Es una invitación viva a todos los católicos de nuestra diócesis para que pasen de simplemente manejar el declive a abrazar audazmente la misión. Todos queremos pertenecer a una Iglesia viva, próspera y centrada en la salvación de las almas. Ese futuro depende de qué tan en serio tomemos este llamado a convertirnos en discípulos para que podamos salir y hacer discípulos.

La carta ofrece un camino claro: conversión, confesión, comunión, comisión, todo unido por la oración. Estos no son conceptos abstractos, sino pasos reales y concretos que cualquiera puede comenzar hoy. Le invito a leer la carta. Y luego la lea de nuevo. Ore por ello, discútalo con su familia, sus amigos o un grupo de su parroquia. Elija una pequeña acción y comienze.

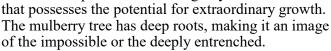
Si cada uno de nosotros toma esto en serio, con la guía del Espíritu Santo, la Diócesis de Joliet puede convertirse en una Iglesia encendida de amor por Jesús. Audazmente, quiero que nuestra diócesis sea la diócesis más evangelizadora del país, no por competencia, sino porque amo a Jesús, y quiero que lo amen y se salven a través de Él también. Este es nuestro momento y esta es nuestra misión. Seamos primero discípulos, hombres y mujeres de todas las edades que conocen, aman y sirven a Jesús, para que juntos podamos salir con alegría y valentía a HACER discípulos, a partir de ahora.

Para obtener más información sobre mi carta pastoral y cómo hacer discípulos para Jesús, visite make.diojoliet.org.

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in OT Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4; 2Tm 1:6-8, 13-14; Lk 17:5-10

The passage begins with the apostles asking Jesus to "Increase our faith!" They recognize a need for

greater spiritual capacity to follow his demanding teachings, particularly those on forgiveness that precede this section. Jesus' response, however, is striking. He doesn't say their faith is too small; instead, he emphasizes the immense power of even the smallest amount of true faith: "If you had faith like a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you." The mustard seed is a common biblical metaphor for something tiny



This teaching suggests that the issue is not the quantity of faith, but its quality and direction. Faith, even if minute, when placed fully in God, has the power to overcome obstacles that appear insurmountable. Our focus should not be on having a lot of faith, but on using the faith we do have to connect with God's limitless power. True faith, like a seed, has inherent, powerful life within it.

Jesus then shifts to a parable about the relationship between a servant and his master to illustrate the proper attitude toward service and reward. The master does not thank the servant for doing what was commanded, nor does the servant expect gratitude after a day of work. Instead, the servant prepares his master's meal first and then eats: "So you also, when you have done everything you were commanded to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty."

This parable challenges the human tendency toward self-congratulation and entitlement in spiritual life. Jesus emphasizes that serving God is not a transaction where we earn favor or credit; it is a duty that flows naturally from our relationship with Him as Cre-

ator and Lord. When we serve, we are not doing God a favor; we are simply fulfilling the purpose for which we were created.

Last Sunday I mentioned that Bishop Hicks has written a pastoral letter for the diocese of Joliet. This letter called, *MAKE*. The title comes directly from the Great Commission: "Go and <u>make</u> disciples." Bishop Hicks is encouraging all of us, the members of the Diocese of Joliet, as Paul encouraged Timothy in today's second reading, to do the same.

This is to deepen our own discipleship and to help others encounter Christ. Bishop Hicks gives us a roadmap with four clear steps: **conversion**, **confession**, **communion**, **and commission**, **all held together by prayer**. These are not abstract ideas. They are real practices that we can begin right now in our daily lives.

Recently, Bishop Hicks shared the results of a national survey of thousands of priests. The number one priority identified was clear: passing the faith on to the next generation. This does not mean other issues are unimportant. In fact, October is filled with major concerns for Catholics: Respect Life Month, the Season of Creation, and the World Day of Migrants and Refugees. But if we want to be a Church alive enough to address these urgent issues with strength and conviction, we need to strengthen our own faith.

Yours in Christ.

Fr. Thomas Theneth CMI

Father Thomas will have **OFFICE HOURS** on Tuesday after 8:30am Mass until 10:30am / Wednesday after 8:30am Mass until 10:30am / Thursday from 5—6pm / Friday after 8:30am Mass until 10:30am or by appointment.

Medicare Open Enrollment

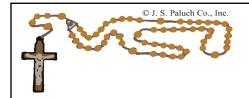
Oct 15 - Dec 7

The Senior Assistance Center at St. Paul the Apostle in Peotone will begin scheduling appointments Sep 1 for an annual review of Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plans and Medicare Advantage Plans.

Premiums, drug tiers and formularies change from year to year. A review ensures you are on the best plan at the lowest cost.

Call 708-258-6917 Ext 5

Please leave your name and phone number



We will pray the **ROSARY** 30-minutes prior to weekend Mass and 30-minutes prior to weekday Mass or Communion Service in October.

COLLECTION SUMMARY: September 27—28, 2025 Budgeted \$3,069.00 Sunday Offertory* \$3,522.00 Plus \$453.00 Envelopes used / distributed 86/531

*Includes 8 Online Givers

Providing for Our Future \$ 236.00

Secure and convenient
ONLINE GIVING is
available at
GiveCentral.org. Please

put in zip code 60468 to



find the St. Paul portal. A credit card or bank account can be linked.



Illinois Lutheran High School is hosting its first COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE of the school year this Thursday, October 9 from 12:30pm-4pm. It will

be on the Versiti mobile donation bus at the ILHS campus (1610 Main St, Crete).

You must be 16 years or older to donate, and 16 year old donors need a signed parental consent form, along with a photo ID for all donors.

You can sign up by visiting https://donateblood.versiti.org and searching for the ILHS October blood drive.

If you have any questions or need help with your appointment, please contact Chloe Robbert (crobbert@ilhs.org).

There will be a:

-FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING on Wednesday, October 15 at 5:30pm;

—*PARISH COUNCIL MEETING* on Wednesday, October 15 at 6:30pm.

Janet Ditta, Laura Jacques,
Nancy Pilotto, Sheela Jose, Rev.
Tom Ewing, Michael Doyle,
Mary Ellen Hanlon, Ashley Doody, Luke Payne, Dave Castaneda,
Greg Nalepka, Kathleen Callahan, Deacon Mark Otten, Jeff OJ. S. Paluch Co., Ir



Furtek, Charles Claxton, Tina Butler, Mary Jane Szewka, Elaine Doyle, Karen Haave, Joyce Svatos, Dorothy Simikowski, Joe Ladislas, Arline Clark, Mary Jo Fry, Gerald Adcock, Laura Valenti, Samantha Digiacomo, Julie Szudarski, Owen Ruhbeck, Sharon Andrews, Sue Gomez, Aris Tomac, Bob Johnson, Pete Henrisey, Claudia Merrifield, Harry & Pam Carpenter, Ray Romito, Francesca Librera Biondo, Mike Wilczynski, Fran Rewers, Geri Mokry, Pastor Richard Young, Jeanne Vinezeano, Frances Librera, the Adamsick Family, Cassidy Novak, Lavergne Sigrist, Charlie Kooy, Rita Hall, Rose Bailey, Julie Hayes, Emily Klamkin, Lorianne Mihelic, the Robert Polacek family, Rich Harms, TJ Stefanski, Linda Galica and those that go unnamed.

Please note that only names given with permission of the person or family member will be added to the list.

A meeting for *current* and those *interested* in serving the parish as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist (EM) and / or Minister of Care will be held Thursday, October 16 at 6:15pm.

The requirements for a person to be an extraordinary minister are quite simple: the individual must be baptized and confirmed and, if married, married in the Church.

You are encouraged to join us prior to the meeting for Adoration at 6pm.



Please join us for **SNACK & CHAT** after 11am Mass today, Sunday, October 5.

There will be a *CCW MEET-ING* this Monday, October 6 at 6:30pm. All women of the parish are welcome to attend.

The St. Paul CCW will again be participating in the Catholic Charities *UNDY SUNDAY* collection drive from October 4 through October 19, 2025. The underwear, socks, undershirts, and diapers that



we collect are distributed to Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet clients throughout the year. Thanks for your support!